2:Musil S-4, 5 (no date)1928 MD4 Rwala MD4

539x

Verse 1. The young mare is called daughter of ʿÎda, not of Bdûni, because a colt is always reckoned as of the family of its mother. 2. The enemy generally attacks when the dew has evaporated, as the camel herds are driven to pasture at that time. *Ṣajjâḥ* is either the herdsman or watchman who first sees the enemy and gives the alarm cry. The men amuse themselves till past midnight and stay in bed until dinner is ready for them, as breakfast is not known among the Bedouins. *Maʿreḳa* or *meršeḥa* is a soft, light horse saddle. 3 *Ğibbe* is a short coat of good cloth with long, narrow sleeves tucked up at the wrists. *Dibbe* is a spear with a supple shaft. *Nafes* is an ornament of ostrich feathers fastened near the spear blade. When about to attack, the spear shaft is held at the right of the hip. Aš-Šarrâbi is a gallant youth, one of the *ḫaṭât al-walîda*, undaunted young warriors, and therefore not to be taunted by men descended from old families. *Walîd* as well as *raǧǧâl* is more than *walad* or *raǧol*. *Walîd*, meaning a a real hero, is a stronger word than *walad*, youth, just as *raǧǧâl*, a man to be depended upon, is stronger than *raǧol*, an ordinary man. Not every *raǧol* is necessarily *raǧǧâl*, or every *walad* a *walîd*.

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1. *Ḳâl al-ḥzejri w-allati tadanna leh*
   bint ar-raʿejl min aṣlaha maǧḏûba
2. *w-lâ jaḳdar ar-raǧǧâl al-ḳaṣîr juʿennihu*
   illa fajarčîha ʿala šenẖûba
3. *jâ čenn ʿajânîha bimefrež râsaha*
   nîrân ḥarb biḳennaten mašbûba
4. *ḥamraʾ tawaṭṭaʾ bi ʿâla miṯl al-ʿamed*
   ḳejṭâtaha biẓahraha maẓbûba
5. *jabṛi-š-šerîf jaḥoṭṭ serǧeh fowḳha*
   hâḏi ʿelûm w-ḥeǧǧaten maḳlûba.

1. Al-Ḥzejri said of her whom he drew to himself, holding
   "By descent she is Raʿejl's daughter, her firmly
2. Whom a small man cannot bridle
   Except he stand on a big rock.
3. Oh, the depth of her eyes, there where the forelock sundal.
   They emit rays like beacons lighted on a high cone.
4. Behold, a bay steps under me like a pliant branch;
   Her back in the middle is unbending.
5. The Sherif would like to place his saddle on her."
   This is my answer and the bargain [for him] is lost.